

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. REX ARCHER ON HIS RETIREMENT AS KANSAS CITY'S HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I rise today to celebrate Dr. Rex Archer, an individual that went above and beyond to serve our community. His work in public health began more than two decades ago, where he has served as the Kansas City Health Director. His commitment and contributions to better the region are unparalleled, shaping Kansas City's Health Department into a department that we can all be proud to have in Missouri's Fifth District.

Before serving Kansas Citizens, Mr. Archer studied at the University of Kansas where he completed his medical degree then his master's in public health at the University of Michigan. His experience allowed him to hold local and state health positions in Maryland and was even a primary advocate for protection policies for nonsmokers from tobacco smoke. The skills and knowledge he earned, prepared and made him a more than qualified to lead the Health Department in Kansas City.

Under Dr. Archer's guidance, Kansas City, Missouri's Health Department became one of the first in the country to be nationally accredited, demonstrating its continuous efforts to fulfill its mission of providing quality health care options and resources to Kansas Citizens. The department was recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials and received the "Local Health Department of the Year Award in Health Equity," in addition to the "Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health" prize.

Dr. Archer dedication to improve public health can be traced to the agency's emergency response to HIV in response to the havoc it had on our local minority communities, the swine flu epidemic, and most recently, his leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. He led the fight in combating the spread of COVID-19 with compassion and expertise, even delaying his retirement for eight months to continue to support the city and protect its members through an unprecedented tragedy. A champion of inclusivity and equity, Dr. Archer continuously advocated to bring more resources to the region when Kansas City, Missouri, was not receiving sufficient COVID-19 vaccines. Once received, he pushed vaccination efforts to reach our underserved communities. His leadership and dedication serve as an example of how to unify different sectors of the community such as elected officials, experts, and media for the greater good of the people we serve.

Looking beyond his extraordinary work in emergency health crises, Dr. Archer and his team have prioritized delivering equitable healthcare services and resources on, expanding the range of services at the Kansas City Health Department. Along those new initiatives are the Healthy Homes program that provides sanitary homes for all, efforts to ensure families have access to healthy and quality meals and establishing mental health services to help combat violent crime.

As a result of his successful career in Kansas City, he has held the position of president

for the National Association of County and City Health Officials and served on the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) of Directors, amongst other national public health committees. While he may often be behind the scenes, his work in public health can be felt and seen widely throughout many lives within our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Dr. Rex Archer for the tremendous accomplishments throughout his career and his tireless efforts in providing Kansas City with equitable healthcare for all. His contributions to our community have made him a valued member of Missouri's Fifth District and I speak on the behalf of the entire district when I say thank you Dr. Rex Archer. While he embraces this next chapter, I wish Dr. Archer many rewarding years in retirement and honor his dedication to public health.

TEXAS DELEGATION WELCOMES NEWEST MEMBER OF CONGRESS, JAKE ELLZEY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise along with my colleagues, Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, the Dean of the Texas Delegation, Congresswoman KAY GRANGER, the co-Dean of the Texas Republican delegation, and other members from Texas—the greatest delegation—for the swearing in of our newest Member of Congress, JAKE ELLZEY.

JAKE is a native Texan from Amarillo who left Texas to attend the United States Naval Academy.

He was commissioned in the Navy upon graduation and then earned the coveted gold wings as a Naval aviator.

JAKE served in the Navy for the next 20 years with honor, distinction, and valor.

He served in numerous deployments and in 6 combat tours—five in the skies over Iraq and Afghanistan and a tour in ground combat in the mountains of Afghanistan, where he directed critical and timely air support for members of Seal Team Six engaged in combat there.

He has been decorated with two Bronze stars for his service in combat.

After retiring from the Navy, JAKE returned to Texas but remained committed to public service.

He was appointed by Governor Perry as a Commissioner on the Texas Veterans Commission for six years and was then elected to the Texas House of Representatives.

JAKE also returned to the skies as a commercial airline pilot flying out of Dallas/Forth Worth and raising his son and daughter with his wife Shelby in Ellis County, Texas.

Texans have a great deal of respect and admiration for those who volunteer to go in harm's way in service to their country.

JAKE is the sixth military veteran Texas voters have sent to Congress just this year.

He brings a wealth of experience in national security, military affairs, veterans affairs, business, and aviation with him to Congress.

This day, no doubt, marks the beginning of yet another rewarding chapter in a distinguished career of service.

On behalf of the Texas delegation, I'm thrilled to welcome JAKE ELLZEY, his wife Shelby, and his son and daughter to the United States Congress.

HONORING VERNON RAY HANCOCK

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Vernon Ray Hancock, who died on June 19, 2021, at the age of 94. Mr. Hancock served nearly 30 years as the Math Department Chair at Emory & Henry College and made a remarkable impact on the students and the university.

Mr. Hancock was born on July 10, 1926, in Baltimore, Maryland to Wheeler Hancock & Rebecca Helm Hancock. In 1943, Mr. Hancock enlisted in the United States Army. After graduating high school, the Army sent him to Virginia Polytechnic Institute for engineering classes. Following WWII, he went on to work as a clerk typist in France and was later honorably discharged in December 1946 with the rank of Tech 4. Mr. Hancock received his graduate degree in math at Johns Hopkins University and his doctorate at Tulane University. Years later, Mr. Hancock returned to the Commonwealth and settled in to make Virginia his life-long home.

Mr. Hancock married Ruth Eileen Farnham in 1950, and the two of them were inseparable as they volunteered together in their community. Throughout his life, both Mr. and Mrs. Hancock were active members of the United Methodist Church. From his appointment at Emory & Henry in 1963 until after his retirement in 1991, Mr. Hancock remained an active member of the academic and service community. He saw his life mission was to serve those around him and he found great joy in this selfless service to his community. Together with his wife, they served with the Boy Scouts of America, chartered the Pi Omicron chapter of the Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity at Emory (of which I was Member), and they were also heavily involved in the Washington County Republican Party. I personally knew Mr. Hancock when he was my Faculty Advisor to the Emory & Henry College Republicans and through his decades of work with the Republican Party.

Mr. Hancock is survived by his 2 sons; Dale and his wife Nancy, Clark and his wife Frances; his granddaughter, Bethany; and numerous nieces and nephews. I offer them my condolences on their loss.

TRIBUTE TO TODD J. CORBIN

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the extraordinary heroism of Todd J. Corbin. Sixteen years ago, as a lance corporal in the United States Marine Corps Reserve serving as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Todd Corbin rescued several of his comrades at great risk to